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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

DAVID KAUFFMAN, individually and  
on behalf of others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

vs.

## ZILLOW GROUP, INC.,

**Defendant.**

CASE NO: '22CV1398 LL AGS

## CLASS ACTION

## **COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES:**

**UNLAWFUL WIRETAPPING AND  
INTERCEPTION OF ELECTRONIC  
COMMUNICATIONS, CAL. PEN.  
CODE § 631**

## JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

## INTRODUCTION

1. David Kauffman (“Plaintiff”), individually and on behalf of all other similarly situated California residents (“Class Members”), brings this action for damages and injunctive relief against Zillow Group, Inc. (“Defendant”), and its present, former, or future direct and indirect parent companies, subsidiaries, affiliates, agents, related entities for violations of the California Penal Code § 631 Wiretapping, (“CIPA”) in relation to the unauthorized collection, recording, and dissemination of Plaintiff’s and Class Members’ data.
  2. The California State Legislature passed CIPA to protect the right of privacy of the people of California. The California Penal Code is very clear in its prohibition against unauthorized tapping or connection without the consent of the other person:

"Any person who, by means of any machine, instrument, or contrivance, or any other matter, intentionally taps, or makes any unauthorized connection . . . with any telegraph or telephone wire, line, cable, or instrument, including the wire, line, cable. Or instrument of any internal telephonic communication system, or who willfully and without consent of all parties to the communication, or in any unauthorized manner, reads, or attempts to read, or to learn the contents or meaning of any message, report, or communication while the same is in transit or passing over any wire, line, or cable, or is being sent from, or received at any place within this state [violates this section]."

3. This case stems from Defendant’s unauthorized connection to Plaintiff’s and Class Members’ electronic communications through the use of “session replay” spyware that allowed Defendant to read, learn the contents of, and report Plaintiff’s and Class Members’ visits to Defendant’s websites.
  4. Plaintiff brings this action for every violation of California Penal Code § 631 which provides for statutory damages of \$2,500 for each violation, pursuant to California Penal Code § 631(a).

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- 1       5. As discussed in detail below, Defendant utilized “session replay” spyware to  
2 intercept Plaintiff’s and the Class Members’ electronic computer-to-computer  
3 data communications, including how Plaintiff and Class Members interacted with  
4 the website, mouse movements and clicks, keystrokes, search items, information  
5 inputted into the website, and pages and content viewed while visiting the  
6 website. Defendant intentionally tapped and made unauthorized connection to  
7 Plaintiff and Class Members’ electronic communications to read and understand  
8 movement on the website, as well as everything Plaintiff and Class Members did  
9 on those pages, *e.g.*, what Plaintiff and Class Members searched for, looked at,  
10 the information inputted, and clicked on.
- 11      6. Defendant made this unauthorized connection without the knowledge or prior  
12 consent of Plaintiff or Class Members.
- 13      7. The “session replay” spyware utilized by Defendant is a sophisticated computer  
14 software that allows Defendant to contemporaneously intercept, capture, read,  
15 observe, re-route, forward, redirect, and receive electronic communications.
- 16      8. “Technological advances[,]” such as Defendant’s use of “session replay”  
17 technology, “provide ‘access to a category of information otherwise unknowable’  
18 and ‘implicate privacy concerns’ in a manner different from traditional intrusions  
19 as a ‘ride on horseback’ is different from a ‘flight to the moon.’” *Patel v.*  
20 *Facebook, Inc.*, 932 F.3d 1264, 1273 (9th Cir. 2019) (quoting *Riley v. California*,  
21 573 U.S. 373, 393 (2014)).
- 22      9. Jonathan Cherki, the CEO of a major “session replay” spyware company – while  
23 discussing the merger of his company with another “session replay” provider –  
24 publicly exposed why companies like Defendant engage in learning the contents  
25 of visits to their websites: “The combination of Clicktale and Contentsquare  
26 heralds an unprecedented goldmine of digital data that enables companies to  
27 interpret and predict the impact of any digital element – including user

1 experience, content, price, reviews and product – on visitor behavior[.]”<sup>1</sup> Mr.  
 2 Cherki added that, “this unique data can be used to activate custom digital  
 3 experiences in the moment via an ecosystem of over 50 martech partners. With a  
 4 global community of customer and partners, we are accelerating the  
 5 interpretation of human behavior online and shaping a future of addictive  
 6 customer experience.”<sup>2</sup>

- 7 10. Unlike typical website analytics services that provide aggregate statistics, the  
 8 session replay technology utilized by Defendant is intended to record and  
 9 playback individual browsing session, as if someone is looking over Plaintiff’s  
 10 or a Class Members’ shoulder when visiting Defendant’s website. The  
 11 technology also permits companies like Defendant to view the interactions of  
 12 visitors on Defendant’s website in live, real-time.
- 13 11. The purported use of “session replay” technology is to monitor and discover  
 14 broken website features; however, the extent and detail collected by users of the  
 15 technology, like Defendant, far exceeds the stated purpose and Plaintiff’s and  
 16 Class Members’ expectations when visiting websites like Defendant’s. The  
 17 technology not only allows the tapping and unauthorized connection of a visitor’s  
 18 electronic communication with a website, but also allows the user to create a  
 19 detailed profile for each visitor to the site.
- 20 12. Moreover, the collection and storage of page content may cause sensitive  
 21 information and other personal information displayed on a page to lead to third  
 22 parties. This may expose website visitors to identity theft, online scams, and other  
 23 unwanted behavior.
- 24 13. In 2019, Apple warned application developers using “session replay” technology  
 25 that they were required to disclose such action to their users, or face being

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27 <sup>1</sup> [https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/contentsquare-acquires-clicktale-to-create-the-](https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/contentsquare-acquires-clicktale-to-create-the-definitive-global-leader-in-experience-analytics-300878232.html)  
 28 <sup>2</sup> *Id*

- 1 immediately removed from the Apple Store: “Protecting user privacy is  
 2 paramount in the Apple ecosystem. Our App Store Review Guidelines require  
 3 that apps request explicit user consent and provide a clear visual indication when  
 4 recording, logging, or otherwise making a record of user activity.”<sup>3</sup>
- 5 14. Consistent with Apple’s concerns, countless articles have been written about the  
 6 privacy implications of recording user interactions during a visit to a website,  
 7 including:
- 8 (a) ***The Dark Side of ‘Replay Sessions’ That Record Your Every Move Online***,  
 9 located at [https://www.wired.com/story/the-dark-side-of-replay-sessions-](https://www.wired.com/story/the-dark-side-of-replay-sessions-that-record-your-every-move-online/)  
 10 [that-record-your-every-move-online/](https://www.wired.com/story/the-dark-side-of-replay-sessions-that-record-your-every-move-online/);
- 11 (b) ***Session-Replay Scripts Disrupt Online Privacy in a Big Way***, located at  
 12 [https://www.techrepublic.com/article/session-replay-scripts-are-disrupting-](https://www.techrepublic.com/article/session-replay-scripts-are-disrupting-online-privacy-in-a-big-way/)  
 13 [online-privacy-in-a-big-way/](https://www.techrepublic.com/article/session-replay-scripts-are-disrupting-online-privacy-in-a-big-way/);
- 14 (c) ***Are Session Recording Tools a Risk to Internet Privacy?*** located at  
 15 <https://mopinion.com/are-session-recording-tools-a-risk-to-internet-privacy/>
- 16 (d) ***Session Replay is a Major Threat to Privacy on the Web***, located at  
 17 [https://www.itnews.com.au/news/session-replay-is-a-major-threat-to-](https://www.itnews.com.au/news/session-replay-is-a-major-threat-to-privacy-on-the-web-477720)  
 18 [privacy-on-the-web-477720](https://www.itnews.com.au/news/session-replay-is-a-major-threat-to-privacy-on-the-web-477720);
- 19 (e) ***Popular Websites Record Every Keystroke You Make and Put Personal***  
 20 ***Information and Risk***, located at [https://medium.com/stronger-](https://medium.com/stronger-content/popular-websites-record-every-keystroke-you-make-and-put-personal-information-at-risk-c5e95dfda514)  
 21 [content/popular-websites-record-every-keystroke-you-make-and-put-](https://medium.com/stronger-content/popular-websites-record-every-keystroke-you-make-and-put-personal-information-at-risk-c5e95dfda514)  
 22 [personal-information-at-risk-c5e95dfda514](https://medium.com/stronger-content/popular-websites-record-every-keystroke-you-make-and-put-personal-information-at-risk-c5e95dfda514); and
- 23 (f) ***Website Owners can Monitor Your Every Scroll and Click***, located at  
 24 [https://www.digitalinformationworld.com/2020/02/top-brands-and-websites-](https://www.digitalinformationworld.com/2020/02/top-brands-and-websites-can-monitor-your-every-scroll-and-click.html)  
 25 [can-monitor-your-every-scroll-and-click.html](https://www.digitalinformationworld.com/2020/02/top-brands-and-websites-can-monitor-your-every-scroll-and-click.html)

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 28 <sup>3</sup> <https://techcrunch.com/2019/02/07/apple-glassbox-apps/>

- 1 15. In sum, Defendant illegally tapped and made an unauthorized connection to  
2 Plaintiff's and Class Members' electronic communications through visits to  
3 Defendant's website, causing injuries, including violations of Plaintiff's and  
4 Class Members' substantive legal privacy rights under CIPA, invasion of  
5 privacy, and potential exposure of private information.
- 6 16. Plaintiff makes these allegations on information and belief, with the exception of  
7 those allegations that pertain to Plaintiff, or to Plaintiff's counsel, which Plaintiff  
8 alleges on his personal knowledge.
- 9 17. Unless otherwise stated, all the conduct engaged in by Defendant took place in  
10 California.
- 11 18. All violations by Defendant were knowing, willful, and intentional, and  
12 Defendant did not maintain procedures reasonably adapted to avoid any such  
13 violation.
- 14 19. Unless otherwise indicated, the use of Defendant's name in this Complaint  
15 includes all agents, employees, officers, members, directors, heirs, successors,  
16 assigns, principals, trustees, sureties, subrogees, representatives, and insurers of  
17 the named Defendant.

18 **PARTIES**

- 19 20. Plaintiff is, and at all times mentioned herein was, a natural person and resident  
20 of the State of California and the County of San Diego.
- 21 21. Defendant is, and at all times mentioned herein was, a Washington corporation  
22 with its principal place of business located at 1301 Second Avenue Floor 31,  
23 Seattle, WA 98101.
- 24 22. At all times relevant herein Defendant conducted business in the State of  
25 California, in the County of San Diego, within this judicial district.

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## JURISDICTION & VENUE

23. Jurisdiction is proper under the Class Action Fairness Act (“CAFA”), 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2), because Plaintiff, a resident of the State of California, seeks relief on behalf of a California class, which will result in at least one Class Member belonging to a different state than Defendant, a Washington Corporation with its principal place of business in Washington.

24. Plaintiff is requesting statutory damages of \$2,500 per violation of Cal. Penal Code §631, which, when aggregated among a proposed class number in the tens of thousands, exceeds the \$5,000,000 threshold for federal court jurisdiction under CAFA.

25. Therefore, both diversity jurisdiction and the damages threshold under CAFA are present, and this Court has jurisdiction.

26. Because Defendant conducts business within the State of California, personal jurisdiction is established.

27. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 for the following reasons: (i) the conduct complained of herein occurred within this judicial district; and (ii) Defendant conducted business within this judicial district at all times relevant.

## FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

28. Defendant owns and operates the following website: [www.zillow.com](http://www.zillow.com).

29. Over the past year, Plaintiff and Class members visited Defendant's website.

30. Plaintiff was in California during each visit to Defendant's website.

31. During visits to the website, Plaintiff and Class Members, through computers and/or mobile devices, transmitted electronic communications in the form of instructions to Defendant's computer servers utilized to operate the website. The commands were sent as messages indicating to Defendant what content was being viewed, clicked on, requested and/or inputted by Plaintiff and Class Members. The communications sent by Plaintiff and Class Members to Defendant's servers included, but were not limited to, the following actions taken

- 1 by Plaintiff and Class Members while on Defendant's website: mouse clicks and  
2 movements, keystrokes, search items, information inputted by Plaintiff and Class  
3 Members, pages and content viewed by Plaintiff and Class Members, scroll  
4 movements, and copy and paste actions.
- 5 32. Defendant responded to Plaintiff's and Class Members' electronic  
6 communications by supplying – through its website – the information requested  
7 by Plaintiff and Class Members. *Revitch v. New Moosejaw, LLC*, U.S. Dist.  
8 LEXIS 186955, at \*3 (N.D. Cal. 2019) ("This series of requests and responses –  
9 whether online or over the phone – is communication.").
- 10 33. Plaintiff and Class Members reasonably expected that visits to Defendant's  
11 website would be private, and that Defendant would not be tapping, connecting  
12 with, or otherwise attempting to understand their communications with  
13 Defendant's website, particularly because Defendant failed to present Plaintiff  
14 and Class Members with a pop-up disclosure or consent form alerting Plaintiff  
15 that the visits to the website were monitored and recorded by Defendant.
- 16 34. Plaintiff and Class Members reasonably believed their interactions with  
17 Defendant's website were private and would not be recorded or monitored for a  
18 later playback by Defendant, or worse yet, live monitoring while Plaintiff and  
19 Class Members were on the website.
- 20 35. Upon information and belief, over the last few years, Defendant has had  
21 embedded within its website code and has continuously operated at least one  
22 "session replay" script that was provided by a third party ("Session Replay  
23 Provider"). The "session replay" spyware was always active and intercepted  
24 every incoming data communication to Defendant's website the moment a visitor  
25 accessed the site.
- 26 36. The Session Replay Provider(s) that provided that "session replay" spyware to  
27 Defendant is not a provider of wire or electronic communication services, or an  
28 internet service provider.

37. Defendant's use of "session play" spyware was not instrumental or necessary to the operation or function of Defendant's website or business.
  38. Defendant's use of "session replay" spyware to intercept Plaintiff's electronic communications was not instrumental or necessary to Defendant's provision of any of its goods or services. Rather, the level and detail of information surreptitiously collected by Defendant indicates that the only purpose was to gain an unlawful understanding of the habits and preferences of users to its websites, and the information collected was solely for Defendant's own benefit.
  39. Defendant's use of a "session replay" spyware to intercept Plaintiff's and Class Members' electronic communications did not facilitate, was not instrumental, and was not incidental to the transmission of Plaintiff's and Class Members' electronic communications with Defendant's website.
  40. During one or more of Plaintiff's and Class Members' visits to Defendant's website, Defendant utilized "session replay" spyware to intercept the substance of Plaintiff's and Class Members' electronic communications intentionally and contemporaneously with Defendant's website, including mouse clicks and movements, keystrokes, search terms, information inputted by Plaintiff, pages and content viewed, scroll movements, and copy and paste actions. In other words, Defendant tapped and made an unauthorized connection with the electronic communications Plaintiff and Class Members made during visits to Defendant's website.
  41. The relevant facts regarding the full parameters of the communications Defendant made an unauthorized connection with and the extent to of how the connections occurred are solely within the possession and control of the Defendant.
  42. The "session replay" spyware utilized by Defendant is not a website cookie, standard analytics tool, web beacon, or other similar technology.

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- 1       43. Unlike harmless collection of an internet protocol address, the data collected by  
2       Defendant identified specific information inputted and content viewed, and thus  
3       revealed personalized and sensitive information about Plaintiff's and Class  
4       Member's internet activity and habits.
- 5       44. The electronic communications Defendant intentionally made an unauthorized  
6       connection was content generated through Plaintiff's intended use, interaction,  
7       and communication with Defendant's website relating to the substance, purport,  
8       and/or meaning of Plaintiff's and Class Members' communications with the  
9       website.
- 10      45. The electronic communications Defendant made and unauthorized connection  
11     with were not generated automatically and were not incidental to Plaintiff's and  
12     Class Members' communications.
- 13      46. The "session replay" spyware utilized by Defendant tapped, made an  
14     unauthorized connection, which allowed Defendant to attempt to learn the  
15     communications of Plaintiff and Class Members in a manner that was  
16     undetectable by Plaintiff.
- 17      47. Plaintiff's electronic data communications were then stored by Defendant, which  
18     Defendant could use to playback Plaintiff's and Class Members' interactions  
19     with Defendant's website.
- 20      48. Defendant never sought consent and Plaintiff and Class Members never provided  
21     consent for Defendant's unauthorized access to Plaintiff's and Class Members'  
22     electronic communications.
- 23      49. Plaintiff and Class Members did not have a reasonable opportunity to discover  
24     Defendant's unlawful and unauthorized connections because Defendant did not  
25     disclose its actions nor seek consent from Plaintiff and Class Members prior to  
26     making the unauthorized connection to the electronic communications through  
27     the "session replay" spyware.

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- 1 50. Plaintiff and Class Members were not placed on notice of Defendant's terms and  
2 policies or privacy policy immediately visiting the website. Instead, Defendant's  
3 terms of use and privacy policy are buried at the bottom of Defendant's website,  
4 out of site from Plaintiff and Class Members.
- 5 51. Defendant does not require visitors to its websites to immediately and directly  
6 acknowledge that the visitor has read Defendant's terms of use or privacy policy  
7 before proceeding to the site.
- 8 52. Defendant's purpose and use of the "session replay" spyware is to attempt to  
9 understand Plaintiff's and Class Members' electronic communications with  
10 Defendant's website.

11 **STANDING**

- 12 53. Defendant's conduct constituted invasions of privacy because it disregarded  
13 Plaintiff's statutorily protected rights to privacy, in violation of CIPA.
- 14 54. Defendant caused Plaintiff to (1) suffer invasions of legally protected interests.  
15 (2) The invasions were concrete because the injuries actually existed for Plaintiff  
16 and continue to exist every time Plaintiff visits Defendant's website. The privacy  
17 invasions suffered by Plaintiff and the Class were real and not abstract. Plaintiff  
18 and the Class have a statutory right to be free from interceptions of their  
19 communications. The interceptions Defendant performed were meant to secretly  
20 spy on Plaintiff to learn more about Plaintiff's behavior. Plaintiff and Class  
21 members were completely unaware they were being observed. Plaintiffs' injuries  
22 were not divorced from concrete harm in that privacy has long been protected in  
23 the form of trespassing laws and the Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution  
24 for example. Like here, an unreasonable search may not cause actual physical  
25 injury, but is considered serious harm, nonetheless. (3) The injuries here were  
26 particularized because they affected Plaintiff in personal and individual ways.  
27 The injuries were individualized rather than collective since Plaintiff's unique  
28 communications were examined without consent during different website visits

1 on separate occasions. (4) Defendant's past invasions were actual and future  
2 invasions are imminent and will occur next time Plaintiff visits Defendant's  
3 website. Defendant continues to intercept communications in California without  
4 consent. A favorable decision by this court would redress the injuries of Plaintiff  
5 and the Class.

6 **TOLLING**

7 55. Any applicable statute(s) of limitations has been tolled by the "delayed  
8 discovery" rule. Plaintiff did not know (and had no way of knowing) that his  
9 information was intercepted, because Defendant kept this information secret.

10 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

11 56. Plaintiff brings this lawsuit as a class action on behalf of himself and Class  
12 Members of the proposed Class. This action satisfies the numerosity,  
13 commonality, typicality, adequacy, predominance, and superiority requirements  
14 of those provisions.

15 57. Plaintiff proposes the following Class, consisting of and defined as follows:

16 All persons in California whose communications  
17 were intercepted by Defendant, and or its agents.

18 58. Excluded from the Class are: (1) Defendant, any entity or division in which  
19 Defendant has a controlling interest, and its legal representatives, officers,  
20 directors, assigns, and successors; (2) the Judge to whom this case is assigned  
21 and the Judge's staff; and (3) those persons who have suffered personal injuries  
22 as a result of the facts alleged herein. Plaintiff reserves the right to redefine the  
23 Class and to add subclasses as appropriate based on discovery and specific  
24 theories of liability.

25 59. **Numerosity:** The Class Members are so numerous that joinder of all members  
26 would be unfeasible and impractical. The membership of the entire Class is  
27 currently unknown to Plaintiff at this time; however, given that, on information  
28 and belief, Defendant accessed millions of unique computers and mobile devices,

1 it is reasonable to presume that the members of the Class are so numerous that  
2 joinder of all members is impracticable. The disposition of their claims in a class  
3 action will provide substantial benefits to the parties and the Court.

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5 60. **Commonality:** There are common questions of law and fact as to Class Members  
6 that predominate over questions affecting only individual members, including,  
7 but not limited to:

- 8 • Whether, within the statutory period, Defendant intercepted any  
9 communications with Class Members;
- 10 • Whether Defendant had, and continues to have, a policy during the  
11 relevant period of intercepting digital communications of Class  
12 Members;
- 13 • Whether Defendant's policy or practice of intercepting Class  
14 Members digital communications constitutes a violation of Cal.  
15 Penal Code § 631;
- 16 • Whether Plaintiff and Class Members were aware of Defendant's  
17 "session replay" spyware and had consented to its use.

18 61. **Typicality:** Plaintiff's and Class Members' wire and cellular telephone  
19 communications were intercepted, unlawfully tapped and recorded without  
20 consent or a warning of such interception and recording, and thus, his injuries are  
21 also typical to Class Members.

22 62. Plaintiff and Class Members were harmed by the acts of Defendant in at least the  
23 following ways: Defendant, either directly or through its agents, illegally  
24 intercepted, tapped, recorded, and stored Plaintiff and Class Members' electronic  
25 communications, and other sensitive personal data from their digital devices with  
26 others, and Defendant invading the privacy of said Plaintiff and Class. Plaintiff  
27 and Class Members were damaged thereby.

1       63. **Adequacy:** Plaintiff is qualified to, and will, fairly and adequately protect the  
2 interests of each Class Member with whom he is similarly situated, as  
3 demonstrated herein. Plaintiff acknowledges that he has an obligation to make  
4 known to the Court any relationships, conflicts, or differences with any Class  
5 Member. Plaintiff's attorneys, the proposed class counsel, are versed in the rules  
6 governing class action discovery, certification, and settlement. In addition,  
7 Plaintiff's attorneys, the proposed class counsel, are versed in the rules governing  
8 class action discovery, certification, and settlement. The proposed class counsel  
9 is experienced in handling claims involving consumer actions and violations of  
10 the California Penal Code § 631. Plaintiff has incurred, and throughout the  
11 duration of this action, will continue to incur costs and attorneys' fees that have  
12 been, are, and will be, necessarily expended for the prosecution of this action for  
13 the substantial benefit of each Class Member.

14      64. **Predominance:** Questions of law or fact common to the Class Members  
15 predominate over any questions affecting only individual members of the Class.  
16 The elements of the legal claims brought by Plaintiff and Class Members are  
17 capable of proof at trial through evidence that is common to the Class rather than  
18 individual to its members.

19      65. **Superiority:** A class action is a superior method for the fair and efficient  
20 adjudication of this controversy because:

- 21           a. Class-wide damages are essential to induce Defendant to  
22 comply with California and Federal law.
- 23           b. Because of the relatively small size of the individual Class  
24 Members' claims, it is likely that only a few Class Members could  
25 afford to seek legal redress for Defendant's misconduct.
- 26           c. Management of these claims is likely to present significantly  
27 fewer difficulties than those presented in many class claims.
- 28           d. Absent a class action, most Class Members would likely find

1           the cost of litigating their claims prohibitively high and would  
2           therefore have no effective remedy at law.

3           e. Class action treatment is manageable because it will permit a  
4           large number of similarly situated persons to prosecute their  
5           common claims in a single forum simultaneously, efficiently, and  
6           without the unnecessary duplication of effort and expense that  
7           numerous individual actions would endanger.

8           f. Absent a class action, Class Members will continue to incur  
9           damages, and Defendant's misconduct will continue without  
10          remedy.

11        66. Plaintiff and the Class Members have all suffered and will continue to suffer harm  
12          and damages as a result of Defendant's unlawful and wrongful conduct. A class  
13          action is also superior to other available methods because as individual Class  
14          Members have no way of discovering that Defendant intercepted and recorded  
15          the Class Member's telephonic electronic communications without Class  
16          Members' knowledge or consent.

17        67. The Class may also be certified because:

- 18           • The prosecution of separate actions by individual Class Members  
19           would create a risk of inconsistent or varying adjudication with  
20           respect to individual Class Members, which would establish  
21           incompatible standards of conduct for Defendant;
- 22           • The prosecution of separate actions by individual Class Members  
23           would create a risk of adjudications with respect to them that  
24           would, as a practical matter, be dispositive of the interests of other  
25           Class Members not parties to the adjudications, or substantially  
26           impair or impede their ability to protect their interests; and
- 27           • Defendant has acted or refused to act on grounds generally  
28           applicable to the Class, thereby making appropriate final and

injunctive relief with respect to the members of the Class as a whole.

68. This suit seeks only damages and injunctive relief for recovery of economic injury on behalf of Class Members and it expressly is not intended to request any recovery for personal injury and claims related thereto.
  69. The joinder of Class Members is impractical and the disposition of their claims in the Class action will provide substantial benefits both to the parties and to the court. The Class Members can be identified through Defendant's records.

## **CAUSE OF ACTION**

## **UNLAWFUL WIRETAPPING AND INTERCEPTION OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION**

## CALIFORNIA PENAL CODE § 631

70. Plaintiff repeats, re-alleges, and incorporates by reference, all other paragraphs.
  71. At all relevant times to this complaint, Defendant intercepted components of Plaintiff's and the putative Class Members' private electronic communications and transmissions when Plaintiff and other Class Members accessed Defendant's website within the State of California.
  72. At all relevant times to this complaint, Plaintiff and the other Class Members did not know Defendant was engaging in such interception and therefore could not provide consent to have any part of their private electronic communications intercepted by Defendant.
  73. Plaintiff and Class Members were completely unaware that Defendant had intercepted and stored electronic communications and other personal data until well after the fact and was therefore unable to consent.
  74. At the inception of Defendant's illegally intercepted and unauthorized connections to Plaintiff's and Class Members' electronic communications, Defendant never advised Plaintiff or the other Class Members that any part of this communications or their use of Defendant's website would be intercepted.

1 75. Plaintiff and Class Members were completely unaware that their use of  
2 Defendant's website and the electronic communications derived from the use was  
3 being intercepted and stored

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7 76. To establish liability under section 631(a), a plaintiff need only establish that the  
8 defendant, "by means of any machine, instrument, contrivance, or in any other  
9 manner," does any of the following:

10           Intentionally taps, or makes any unauthorized connection,  
11           whether physically, electrically, acoustically, inductively  
12           or otherwise, with any telegraph or telephone wire, line,  
13           cable, or instrument, including the wire, line, cable, or  
14           instrument of any internal telephonic communication  
15           system,

16           ***Or***

17           Willfully and without the consent of all parties to the  
18           communication, or in any unauthorized manner, reads or  
19           attempts to read or learn the contents or meaning of any  
20           message, report, or communication while the same is in  
21           transit or passing over any wire, line or cable or is being  
22           sent from or received at any place within this state,

23           ***Or***

24           Uses, or attempts to use, in any manner, or for any  
25           purpose, or to communicate in any way, any information  
26           so obtained,

27           ***Or***

28           Aids, agrees with, employs, or conspires with any person  
29           or persons to unlawfully do, or permit, or cause to be done  
30           any of the acts or things mentioned above in this section.

- 1  
2 77. Section 631(a) is not limited to phone lines, but also applies to “new  
3 technologies” such as computers, the Internet, and email. *Matera v. Google Inc.*,  
4 2016 WL 8200619, at \*21 (N.D. Cal. Aug. 12, 2016) (CIPA applies to “new  
5 technologies” and must be construed broadly to effectuate its remedial purpose  
6 of protecting privacy); *Bradley v. Google, Inc.*, 2006 WL 3798134, at \*5-6 (N.D.  
7 Cal. Dec. 22, 2006) (CIPA governs “electronic communications”); *In re  
8 Facebook, Inc. Internet Tracking Litigation*, --- F.3d --- 2020 WL 1807978 (9th  
9 Cir. Apr. 9, 2020) (reversing dismissal of CIPA and common law privacy claims  
10 based on Facebook’s collection of consumers’ Internet browsing history).
- 11 78. Defendant’s use of the “session replay” spyware is a “machine, instrument,  
12 contrivance, or . . . other manner” used to engage in the prohibited conduct at  
13 issue here.
- 14 79. At all relevant times, by using the “session replay” spyware to track, record, and  
15 attempt to learn the contents of Plaintiff’s and Class Members’ electronic  
16 communications, Defendant intentionally tapped, electrically or otherwise, the  
17 lines of internet communication between Plaintiff and Class Members on the one  
18 hand, and the specific sites and locations Plaintiffs and Class Members visited on  
19 Defendant’s website on the other.
- 20 80. At all relevant times, by utilizing the “session replay” spyware, Defendant  
21 willfully and without the consent of all parties to the communication, or in any  
22 unauthorized manner, read or attempted to read or learn the contents or meaning  
23 of electronic communications of Plaintiff and putative Class Members, while the  
24 electronic communications were in transit or passing over any wire, line or cable  
25 or were being sent from or received at any place within California.
- 26 81. Plaintiff and Class Members did not consent to any of Defendant’s actions in  
27 implementing these unauthorized connections, nor have Plaintiff or Class  
28 Members consented to Defendants’ intentional access, interception, reading,

1 learning, recording, and collection of Plaintiff's and Class Members' electronic  
2 communications.

3 ///

4 ///

5 ///

6 ///

7 82. Plaintiff's and the Class Members' devices that Defendant accessed through its  
8 unauthorized actions included their computers, smart phones, and tablets and/or  
9 other electronic computing devices.

10 83. Defendant violated Cal. Penal Code § 631 by knowingly accessing, and without  
11 permission accessing, Plaintiff's and Class Members' electronic communications  
12 through the use of the "session replay" spyware in order for Defendant to track,  
13 understand, and attempt to learn the contents of Plaintiff's and Class Members'  
14 electronic communications generated by the use of Defendant's website, in  
15 violation of Plaintiff's and Class Members' reasonable expectations of privacy in  
16 their devices and data.

17 84. Defendant violated Cal. Penal Code § 631 by knowingly and without permission  
18 intercepting, wiretapping, accessing, taking and using Plaintiff's and the Class  
19 Members' personally identifiable information and personal communications with  
20 others.

21 85. Plaintiff and Class Members seek all relief available under Cal. Penal Code §  
22 631, including \$2,500 per violation.

23 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

24 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff and the Class Members pray that judgment be entered  
25 against Defendant, and Plaintiff and Class Members be awarded damages from  
26 Defendant, as follows:

- 27 • Certify the Class as requested herein;  
28 • Appoint Plaintiff to serve as the Class Representative for the Class; and

- Appoint Plaintiff's Counsel as Class Counsel in this matter for the Class.
  - \$2,500 to each Class Member pursuant to California Penal Code § 631(a) for each unlawful interception of communications;
  - Reasonable attorneys' fees pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 1021.5;
  - Injunctive relief to prevent the further occurrence of such illegal acts pursuant to California Penal Code § 631;
  - An award of costs to Plaintiff; and
  - Any other relief the Court may deem just and proper including interest.

## TRIAL BY JURY

86. Pursuant to the Seventh Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America, Plaintiff and Class Members are entitled to, and demand, a trial by jury.

Respectfully submitted,

SWIGART LAW GROUP

Date: September 15, 2022

By: s/ Joshua Swigart  
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Attorneys for Plaintiff

## LAW OFFICE OF DANIEL G. SHAY

Date: September 15, 2022

By: s/ Daniel Shay  
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Attorney for Plaintiffs